



December 2024
Volume 42 No. 12

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



Adoration of the Kings by Giuseppe Chiari (1564-1727), an Italian painter of the late-Baroque period, active mostly in Rome.

Displaying a Nativity scene is a Christian tradition practiced for many years around Christmas time and it is still relevant to this day. Often adorned with animals, a manger, angels, and shepherds, this display focuses on the birth of Jesus and enhances the Christmas experience with a beloved symbol of the season.

The act of setting up the Nativity scene is said to have been created from an idea by St. Francis of Assisi many years ago in 1223. The Nativity scene was displayed in a nearby cave and many Christian citizens visited the area to pay their respects and pray. This event spread around Italy and to other countries, from the Vatican to the U.S., and the set itself varies depending on who puts it together. In some locations, the Nativity scene is displayed publicly, while other areas may enjoy a private Nativity scene in their personal homes.

The News is a monthly publication of the American Italian Heritage Society, an independent, nonprofit organization, legally incorporated in Nebraska. The deadline for submissions is the second Wednesday of the month. Correspondence and articles can be sent to secretary@omahaitaly.com.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sausage Sale Pickup - Sat. Dec. 7th, 10am – Noon
Meat cutting Thurs. Dec. 5th, 8am - 4pm

December Membership Meeting
Monday, Dec. 9th Social Hour 6:30 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM

Italian Cookie Exchange after meeting. Bring a dozen, we will enjoy some and take a plate home.

Epiphany Celebration
Sunday, January 5, 2025
Please RSVP by Friday, Jan. 3rd

No January Meeting

November 2024 Membership Meeting Report

The social hour was held before the meeting. Homemade foods and snacks were brought by members. Delicious foods, conversations and camaraderie were enjoyed by all. The General Membership Meeting on November 11, 2024 was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans John Portera and Joe Daniels as flag-bearers. Immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance a recording of “Taps” was played reverently in silence by members and all the veterans present saluting the flag. Since it was Veteran’s Day “Taps” was played as a tribute to the veterans and as a memorial to those that lost their lives fighting for our country. This was an idea of John Portera to show respect to veterans.

There were 24 members were in attendance. A moment of silent prayer was observed for members that are ill and special prayers were offered for veterans who have died in the service of our country. The minutes of last months meeting were read by Terry Bolamperti and approved by the membership. The **Treasurer’s Report** was given by Treasurer Jeff Ladwig and was approved by the membership. He reported that all bills from the Festa have been paid. It was announced that we will be closing our bank account with Security National Bank by early December. All Society banking business will now be done at Pinnacle Bank.

Old Business was discussed including the successful fall **Pasta Dinner** held on November 3rd. We had a good crowd on a beautiful day. There were many compliments on the food. We served around 625 diners. We had a wonderful group of volunteers that ran the entire fundraiser efficiently. I want to thank everyone that helped in any way to make the event a success. The successful Festa Report was given with most ticket money collected and all bills were paid.

New Business. The **Sausage Fundraiser** was discussed which will be held Saturday, December 7th. Volunteers will be needed to help with meat cutting on Thursday, December 5th and earlier in the week for preparation of peppers and cracked olives. If anyone could help they were asked to call Beth, the AIHS secretary. The Board Elections were held this year at the November meeting with Dave Fucinaro as the single candidate. Dave was voted in unanimously. Congratulations to our new Board member Dave Fucinaro.

The **Italian Cookie Exchange** will take place at the December 9th Membership Meeting. All attending were encouraged to bring enough homemade Italian cookies to share with others. Members were reminded of the **Epiphany Celebration** which will be held on Sunday, January 5th 2025 with food, drinks, Santa, and the Befana. Volunteers were called for to be bartenders for an event on Friday and Saturday, November, 22 & 23. Thanks to those that volunteered!

The meeting was adjourned and the Piece of the Pie winners were Larry Belfiore and Beth Phillips. Several others were drawn for several other prizes. All members are welcome to attend the next meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024. *The food for the social hour provided by the Society, members provide the Christmas cookies.*

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



Sausage Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, December 7th from 10 AM - Noon

Sausage: \$33 / 5 pounds

Peppers: \$15 / quart

Olives: \$15 / quart

Spaghetti Sauce: \$9 / quart

Frozen Meatballs: \$25 / bag of 25

Italian Salad Dressing: 16 oz for \$4.50

Fresh Rotella Sausage Buns will also be for sale on a limited basis.

We still need help cutting meat and packaging.

Thursday, Dec. 5th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7th from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The deadline to **order** our Society's fresh Italian Sausage is Wednesday, December 4th for pick up on Saturday, December 7th at The Palazzo.

To place an order email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com or call Beth at the office at (402) 493-8888 x 1. Thank you!



Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 5th 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pasta & Meatball (or Sausage) Dinner served at 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available

The Epiphany is one the best family events we hold! It's a true ethnic event and part of our Italian culture.

The Befana and Santa will be visiting and giving bags of treats to kids under age 12.

Complimentary dinner for Paid Members.

Guests Welcome with recommended \$12 donation.

Additional member donations appreciated. Reservations are necessary so all children get a giftbag. Please indicate the number of adults and kids under age 12.

Please email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com or call **402-493-8888 x1** to make your reservations.

We hope to see you there!



Zucchini Spice Cookies

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AIHS Cookbook

by Yolanda Capellupo

3/4 c. Crisco	1 tsp. cloves
1/2 c. sugar	1 c. brown sugar
3 c. flour	2 lg. eggs
1 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda	2 c. peeled, grated zucchini
1 1/2 tsp. salt	1 c. chopped raisins
1 T. cinnamon	1/2 c. chopped nuts
1 tsp. nutmeg	



Cream together Crisco and sugar; add to dry ingredients and mix well. Add zucchini, raisins and nuts; mix well. Drop by heaping teaspoonfuls on a greased baking sheet and bake for 12 to 13 minutes at 325. Frost with vanilla flavoring icing optional.

At the AIHS Membership Meeting on Monday, December 9th, there will be an Italian cookie exchange after the meeting.

So please bring your favorite Italian cookies to share with other members!



CASANOVA'S BUTCHERY

ROCKBROOK

The old-fashioned butcher shop has returned to Omaha! Family-owned Casanova's Butchery is open in Rockbrook Village, 108th & Center. Casanova's sells only Choice and Prime beef—nothing less. Plus fresh pork, poultry, awesome burgers, homemade sausages, and amazing charcuterie, all at reasonable prices. Skilled butchers custom cut and prepare your order right in front of you. It's the way butchery used to be! Shop choice meats and buy them just how you want at Casanova's Butchery, open every day.

Casanovasbutchery.com | 531.867.7067
10914 Elm Street | Omaha, NE 68144
Casanovasbutchery@gmail.com



Rockbrook Village

Hours Monday - Saturday, 9am to 6pm
Sunday, 9am to 3pm



FALL PASTA DINNER

Our Fall Pasta and Meatball Dinner was held on Sunday, November 3, 2024. It was a very successful event and over 625 dinners were served. We want to thank all the members who sold tickets and attended the dinner. In addition we'd like to thank all the non-members, friends and neighbors who attended. All your support is truly appreciated.

The food was delicious and enjoyed by all who attended. As usual we received many positive compliments on the food from the guests that attended. We want to thank all those volunteers that helped in the days and weeks before the dinner, including the crews who cooked the sauce, the crews that made the meatball mixture and those that rolled, baked and bagged the meatballs, those that made the salad dressing and also the crews that precooked the pasta and helped set up the tables in the ballroom. Sincere thanks also goes out to the volunteers helping the day of the event including the kitchen crew, the salad crew and all those that helped on the serving line, the take-out area, the bake sale and the bartenders. Thanks to those that helped run the front desk with ticket sales and selling the specialty food products. A very special thanks goes out to all those who helped with clearing tables and those very few who stayed late with banquet hall and kitchen clean-up.

It takes many, many volunteers to put on this event and we want to thank each and every one of you who helped in any way. The success of this Pasta Dinner is due to our wonderful, dedicated and hard working volunteers. We can't thank you enough for all the service you offer to the Society throughout the years.

Many thanks once again to member Lou Rotella of Rotella's Italian Bakery for his generosity in donating the bread for the dinner. His continued support is sincerely appreciated. Mille Grazie!

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti





PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Geno Crisafulli, Maria Leo, Margo Pirruccello, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Judge Joe Troia, Tara & Tim Virgilito, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Sam & Lucy Marasco, Lou Buda, Ron & Joan Gentzler.

WELCOME NEW AIHS MEMBERS

We are very excited to welcome our newest members to our society. Please greet and introduce yourself to these new members at our next event; Kathie Blessie. We look forward to seeing you soon.

PLEASE CONSIDER ADVERTISING WITH US

We are looking for additional businesses to advertise in our monthly newsletter. If you have a business or know of one that would like to advertise in our newsletter, we encourage you to call the office at 402-493-8888 x 1 or email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com.

AIHS COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Our original cookbook "A Taste of Italy" is still available for sale for \$25.00 tax included. There are many great authentic, family recipes and Society specialties.

TAGG (Together A Greater Good)

The TAGG program will be ending December 31, 2024. Please upload any receipts you have from supporters prior to this date. Thank you to those of you that have used this program to support our Society.



***SUPPORT & PROMOTE PALAZZO!!!

We need your help to promote our home, Palazzo for rentals. Please call Beth at the AIHS office to schedule a tour and she will help provide information on our exclusive caterer, Catering Creations.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to Welcome our newest Board Member, Dave Fucinaro. He was voted in unanimously at the November Membership Meeting. We look forward to working alongside Dave!

CONDOLENCES

Please keep members Barb and Dave Semerad in your thoughts and prayers. Barb's mother Rose Ann (Anania) O'Donnell passed peacefully on November 13, 2024. Rose Ann devoted herself wholeheartedly to her family and the organizations that supported them, including Madonna School, Honey Sunday, Catholic Daughters, and Saint James Parish. Her legacy of compassion, resilience, and unwavering devotion continues to inspire all who knew her. Memorials may be made to Madonna School/Community Based Services and/or Peaceful Hearts Hospice Foundation.



facebook.com/AIHSOmaha



www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com



Learn Italian



We will be offering Italian language classes beginning January 14th. It will be a five week crash course in Italian language for beginners. Our instructor Caroline Cimino will start from zero and build foundation up with a high emphasis on grammar and Italian for travel. Homework will be assigned after each lesson. We will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6 PM January 14th - February 13th. Each lesson is 45 minutes long. Enrollment is open now and the cost is \$250 per person. The cost for couples is \$400.

Please call Beth by December 27th at 402-493-8888 to get enrolled for this course.



Pasta Amore

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